

3. Mutations induced by teosinte introgression.

A second contribution which teosinte introgression has made to the evolution of maize is to speed up the mutation rate. Some of these mutations are reported in the 1953 Maize News Letter. Additional mutations have been found during the past season. All of the mutations so far identified are deleterious but it seems probable that the same mechanism which is producing these (perhaps a bridge-breakage-fusion cycle) is producing minute duplications and other variations not easily detectable, which, under domestication, can serve as building blocks of evolution.

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